

What is claimed is:

1. A method of processing audio signals, comprising:
inhibiting at least one feedback component of an input audio signal by
5 adjusting a feedback-inhibiting filter using a narrowband high signal-to-noise
subaudible probe signal.
2. A method of processing at least one audio signal, comprising:
filtering a processed signal by a notch filter to form a filtered signal; and
10 sending a subaudible narrowband signal having a first bandwidth into the
filtered signal to form a probe signal to probe a feedback path having a second
bandwidth.
3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
15 comparing the probe signal to an input signal; and
adjusting selectively an inhibiting filter so as to inhibit at least one audio
artifact associated with the feedback path.
4. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
20 turning off selectively the operation of the notch filter when the inhibiting
filter is adjusted.

5. The method of claim 2, wherein sending the subaudible narrowband signal comprises sending the subaudible narrowband signal having a level, wherein the level of the subaudible narrowband signal is determined using an audibility model.

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6. The method of claim 5, wherein sending the subaudible narrowband signal comprises sending the subaudible narrowband signal at a level determined by an audibility model, wherein the audibility model has a criterion level, and wherein the level of the subaudible narrowband signal is adjusted so as to be about the criterion level of the audibility model.

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7. The method of claim 5, wherein sending the subaudible narrowband signal comprises sending the subaudible narrowband signal at a level determined by an audibility model, wherein the audibility model has a criterion level, and wherein the level of the subaudible narrowband signal is adjusted so as to be about below the criterion level of the audibility model.

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8. A system for enhancing audio signals, the system comprising:
at least one detector to detect undesired feedback in an input signal;
at least one notch filter to filter a processed signal, wherein the at least one notch filter provides a filtered signal; and

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at least one probe generator to generate a probe signal to probe a feedback path.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the at least one detector determines when
5 the feedback path will be probed.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein the at least one detector determines a range of frequencies at which the feedback path will be probed.

10 11. The system of claim 8, wherein the at least one detector provides a feedback parameter, and wherein the at least one notch filter is receptive to the feedback parameter from the at least one detector.

12. The system of claim 8, wherein the at least one detector provides a
15 plurality of feedback parameters, and wherein the at least one notch filter is receptive to the plurality of feedback parameters from the at least one detector.

13. The system of claim 8, wherein the at least one notch filter has a first bandwidth, wherein the undesired feedback has a second bandwidth, and wherein
20 the at least one notch filter is configured so as to center the first bandwidth of the at least one notch filter on the second bandwidth of the undesired feedback.

14. The system of claim 8, wherein the at least one probe generator has a first bandwidth, wherein the feedback path has a second bandwidth, and wherein the at least one probe generator is configured so as to center the first bandwidth of the at least one probe generator on the second bandwidth of the feedback path.

15. The system of claim 8, wherein the at least one probe generator generates a plurality of signals that are combined to form a probe signal to probe a feedback path.

16. The system of claim 8, further comprising a combiner to provide a combined signal, wherein the combiner combines the filtered signal of the at least one notch filter and the probe signal of the at least one probe generator.

17. The system of claim 8, further comprising a signal processor to provide the processed signal.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the signal processor includes a compressive amplifier.

19. The system of claim 8, further comprising a switch to provide an output

signal, wherein the switch is receptive to the processed signal and the combined signal.

20. The system of claim 8, further comprising a filter adjuster to adjust a filter
5 by providing a set of filter coefficients.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the filter adjuster compares the input and the output signals to determine the amplitude and phase responses of the feedback path.

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22. The system of claim 8, further comprising an inhibiting filter receptive to the set of filter coefficients from the filter adjuster to inhibit at least one feedback component of the input signal.

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23. The system of claim 22, wherein the inhibiting filter approximates the response of the feedback path to provide at least one feedback component signal, wherein the at least one feedback component signal is subtracted from the input signal.

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24. The system of claim 8, further comprising an inhibiting filter receptive to the set of discrete-Fourier-transformed filter coefficients from the filter adjuster to

inhibit at least one feedback component of the input audio signal.

25. A probe generator to generate a probe signal to probe a feedback path,
wherein the probe generator is receptive to a feedback indicator parameter, the
5 probe generator comprising:

an amplitude indicator to indicate an amplitude level of the probe signal,
wherein the amplitude indicator provides an amplitude signal;

a frequency indicator to indicate a frequency of the probe signal, wherein
the frequency indicator provides a frequency signal; and

10 a signal generator receptive to the amplitude signal and the frequency
signal to generate the probe signal.

26. The probe generator of claim 25, wherein the amplitude indicator
comprises:

15 a bandpass filter receptive to a processed signal to provide a filtered signal;

a full-wave rectifier receptive to the filtered signal to provide a rectified
signal; and

a multiplier receptive to the rectified signal and an empirical constant to
provide the amplitude signal.

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27. The probe generator of claim 25, wherein the frequency indicator

comprises:

a first divider to divide the feedback indicator parameter by two to
provided a first divided signal;

an arccosine function to take the arccosine of the first divided signal to
5 provide an acos signal;

a multiplier receptive to the acos signal and a sampling rate of a system the
probe generator is probing, wherein the multiplier provides a multiplied signal;
and

a second divider to divide the multiplied signal by 2π , wherein the second
10 divider provides a frequency signal.

28. The probe generator of claim 25, wherein the signal generator is a
sinusoidal generator.

15 29. The probe generator of claim 25, wherein the signal generator is a
narrowband noise generator.

30. The probe generator of claim 26, wherein the bandpass filter is about 150
Hertz wide.

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31. The probe generator of claim 26, wherein the filtered signal of the

bandpass filter has a level, and wherein the amplitude signal is about 0 to about -3 dB relative to the level of the filtered signal of the bandpass filter.

32. The probe generator of claim 26, wherein the empirical constant is about
5 0.71 to about 1.0.

33. The probe generator of claim 26, wherein the probe signal has an
amplitude level, and wherein the bandpass filter is selected with a predetermined
response to attenuate the amplitude level of the probe signal so as to inhibit
10 undesired feedback that is initiated by the probe signal.

34. The probe generator of claim 25, wherein the frequency signal is a constant
value.

35. The probe generator of claim 26, the processed signal includes an
15 environmental context of a listener.

36. A method of generating a probe signal, the method comprising:
generating an amplitude signal that is indicative of an amplitude level of
20 the probe signal;
generating a frequency signal that is indicative of a frequency of the probe

signal; and

generating a sinusoidal signal that is based on the amplitude signal and the frequency signal.

- 5 37. The method of claim 36, wherein generating an amplitude signal comprises:

filtering a processed signal with a bandpass filter to provide a filtered signal;

rectifying a filtered signal to provide a rectified signal; and

- 10 multiplying the rectified signal with an empirical constant to provide the amplitude signal.

38. The method of claim 36, wherein generating a frequency signal comprises:

dividing a feedback indicator parameter by two to provide a first divided

- 15 signal;

taking the arccosine of the first divided signal to provide an acos signal;

multiplying the acos signal and a sampling rate of a system the probe generator is probing to provide a multiplied signal; and

dividing the multiplied signal by 2π to provide the frequency signal.

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39. The method of claim 36, wherein generating the amplitude signal further

comprises selectively delaying the processed signal to compensate for the delay in generating the probe signal so as to allow the use of a high amplitude level of the probe signal.

- 5 40. A filter adjuster to adjust a filter by providing a set of filter coefficients, the filter adjuster comprising:

 a modeler receptive to a feedback indicator parameter, an input signal, and an output signal to model at least one response of a feedback path when the feedback path is probed with a probe signal at a predetermined frequency, wherein
10 the modeler provides at least one sample that is representative of the at least one response of the feedback path.

41. The filter adjuster of claim 40, wherein the modeler comprises:

 a first Goertzel transformer receptive to the feedback indicator parameter
15 and the input signal to provide a first complex signal having a first phase and a first amplitude; and

 a second Goertzel transformer receptive to the feedback indicator parameter and the output signal to provide a second complex signal having a second phase and a second amplitude.

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42. The filter adjuster of claim 41, wherein the modeler further comprises:

a combiner to subtract the first phase and the second phase to provide a difference signal;

a divider to divide the first amplitude and the second amplitude to provide a ratio signal.

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43. The filter adjuster of claim 42, wherein the difference signal and the ratio signal form the at least one sample.

44. The filter adjuster of claim 43, wherein the at least one sample is averaged.

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45. The filter adjuster of claim 40, further comprising a discrete-Fourier-transformer to transform the at least one sample to obtain at least one filter coefficient.

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46. A method to adjust a filter by providing a set of filter coefficients, the method comprising:

modeling at least one response of a feedback path to provide at least one sample that is indicative of the at least one response of the feedback path; and

transforming selectively the at least one sample by using a discrete-Fourier-transform to obtain at least one filter coefficient.

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47. The method of claim 46, wherein modeling further comprises:

transforming a feedback indicator parameter and an input signal to provide
a first complex signal having a first phase and a first amplitude; and

transforming the feedback indicator parameter and an output signal to
provide a second complex signal having a second phase and second amplitude.

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48. The method of claim 47, wherein modeling further comprises:

subtracting the first and the second phase to provide a difference signal;

and

dividing the first amplitude and the second amplitude to provide a ratio

10 signal.

49. The method of claim 48, wherein modeling further comprises forming the
at least one sample from the difference signal and the ratio signal.

15 50. The method of claim 49, wherein modeling further comprises averaging
the at least one sample.

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